

REMARKS

Reconsideration of the application in view of the above amendments and the following remarks is respectfully requested. Claims 1-61 have been canceled. Claims 62-109 have been added. Claims 62-109 are currently pending in the application.

Claim Rejections

In the Final Office Action, the Examiner rejected claims 1-27, 41, 46-47, 49-52, and 54-61 under 35 U.S.C. §102(b) as being anticipated by Gupta (U.S. Patent No. 5,913,061). The Examiner also rejected claim 48 under 35 U.S.C. §103(a) as being unpatentable over Gupta in view of Butterworth (U.S. Patent No. 5,457,797). Claims 1-27, 41, 46-48, 49-52, and 54-61 have been canceled. Therefore, Applicants request that these rejections be withdrawn.

New Claims

New claims 62-109 have been added to claim the invention with the breadth and scope to which Applicants believe they are entitled. Applicants respectfully submit these new claims are patentable over the art of record.

Independent Claim 62

Claim 62 recites:

An application collaboration system, comprising:
a central registry for maintaining configuration information for various components in the system, the configuration information comprising a first set of configuration information and a second set of configuration information; and
a first interface and a second interface, the first interface configured to communicate with a first application, and the second interface configured to communicate with a second application, wherein the first and second

applications are not capable of communicating directly with each other, wherein the first and second interfaces are coupled to each other and to the central registry via a communications medium for enabling communication therebetween, wherein the first interface is capable of receiving the first set of configuration information from the central registry and implementing the first set of configuration information to operate in accordance therewith, wherein the second interface is capable of receiving the second set of configuration information from the central registry and implementing the second set of configuration information to operate in accordance therewith, and wherein the first interface and the second interface are capable of communicating with each other, without interacting with the central registry, to enable information to be exchanged between the first and the second applications. (Emphasis added)

Claim 62 provides a system that enables applications, which normally would not be able to communicate with each other, to be able to exchange information with each other. The system of claim 62 does so by having a first interface configured to communicate with a first application, and a second interface configured to communicate with a second application. The first interface is capable of receiving a first set of configuration information from a central registry, and implementing the first set of configuration information to operate in accordance therewith. The second interface is capable of receiving a second set of configuration information from the central registry, and implementing the second set of configuration information to operate in accordance therewith. Once the interfaces are configured, they are capable of communicating with each other, without interacting with the central registry, to enable the applications to exchange information with each other. In this architecture, the interfaces can be managed centrally (by receiving configuration information from the central registry), but can operate independently (they can communicate with each other without interacting with the central registry).

Such a system is neither disclosed nor suggested by Gupta. Instead, Gupta discloses a system that is more server-centric. In Gupta, the components that interface

with the applications are the connectors 30 (see, for example, Fig. 1). These connectors 30 enable the applications 70 to collaborate (see, for example, Col. 4, lines 7-17). To do so, the connectors exchange messages with a service module, and the service module transfers the messages between the connectors and an application collaboration module (see, for example, Col. 1, lines 44-57). Gupta makes it abundantly clear that the service module and the application collaboration module are part of an interchange server (see, for example, Col. 6, lines 20-26, and lines 40-50, and Figs. 1 and 3). Thus, in order to communicate with each other, the connectors have to interact with the interchange server (i.e. they have to interact with the service module and the application collaboration module, which are part of the interchange server). Unlike the interfaces of claim 62, the connectors of Gupta are not capable of communicating with each other without interacting with the interchange server. There is no mention in Gupta of the connectors having this capability. Thus, for at least this reason, Applicants submit that claim 62 is patentable over Gupta.

Butterworth also fails to teach or suggest interfaces that can communicate with each other without interacting with a central registry. Thus, for at least this reason, Applicants submit that claim 62 is patentable over Butterworth as well.

Applicants further submit that claims 63-92, which depend from claim 62, and which recite other advantageous aspects of the invention, are likewise patentable over Gupta and Butterworth for at least the reasons given above in connection with claim 62.

Independent Claim 93

Claim 93 recites:

In a system comprising a central registry for maintaining configuration information for various components in the system, a first interface

coupled to communicate with a first application, and a second interface coupled to communicate with a second application, a method for enabling the first and second applications to exchange information, comprising:
receiving, by the first interface, a first set of configuration information from the central registry;
implementing, by the first interface, the first set of configuration information to cause the first interface to operate in accordance therewith;
receiving, by the second interface, a second set of configuration information from the central registry;
implementing, by the second interface, the second set of configuration information to cause the second interface to operate in accordance therewith; and
communicating, by the first and second interfaces, with each other to enable information to be exchanged between the first and the second applications, wherein the first and second interfaces communicate with each other without interacting with the central registry. (Emphasis added)

Claim 93 includes a recitation that the first and second interfaces communicate with each other without interacting with the central registry. As argued above in connection with claim 62, such an aspect is neither disclosed nor suggested by Gupta and Butterworth. For at least this reason, Applicants submit that claim 93 is patentable over Gupta and Butterworth.

Applicants further submit that claims 94-109, which depend from claim 93, and which recite other advantageous aspects of the invention, are likewise patentable over Gupta and Butterworth for at least the reasons given above in connection with claim 93.

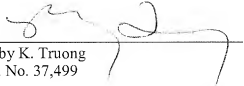
For the reasons given above, Applicants believe that all of the pending claims are patentable over the art of record, including the art cited but not applied. Accordingly, allowance of all pending claims is hereby respectfully solicited.

The Examiner is invited to telephone the undersigned at (408) 414-1080 to discuss any issue that may advance prosecution.

Respectfully submitted,

HICKMAN PALERMO TRUONG & BECKER LLP

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Bobby K. Truong
Reg. No. 37,499

2055 Gateway Place, Suite 550
San Jose, California 95110-1089
Telephone No.: (408) 414-1080 ext. 234
Facsimile No.: (408) 414-1076